REMARKS

No claims have been amended. Claims 1-15 remain in the application. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the following text, specific references to the present application and the prior art are made using the notation "x:y", where "x" denotes the page or column number, and "y" indicates the line number, within the document being discussed.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-7 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,017,222 ("Kao"). Additionally, the examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kao. The applicant respectfully traverses.

With respect to claim 1, Kao discloses an electrical connector assembly that connects two flex circuits with a main circuit board 30 (1:61 – 1:64). FIG. 3 of Kao indicates that the two flex circuits each have a flat end portion 71 with electrical terminals 712 residing on the ends of the flex circuits (2:56 – 2:60). The flat end portions 71 make contact on either side of a connecting board 40 with the electrical terminals 712 of the flat end portions 71 making contact with a set of conductive members 42 on the connecting board 40 (3:7 – 3:11). The flat end portions 71 and the connecting board 40 are held together in part by two clips 711 (2:50 – 2:53). The connecting board 40 then attaches to the main circuit board 30 by way of a mating portion 43 that connects with a complementary mating section 31 on the main circuit board 30 (3:11 – 3:15).

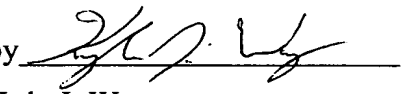
The examiner has identified the mating portion 43 as being equivalent to the termination circuit recited in claim 1 of the present application. However, mating portion 43 is nothing more than a standard printed circuit board connector, as shown in FIGS. 3, 4, and 7 of Kao. That structure is not equivalent to the termination circuit 210 of the present invention, as shown in FIG. 4 of the application. Termination circuits typically consist of some combination of electronic components, such as resistors and capacitors (4:13 – 4:17). These circuits are commonly utilized to mitigate deleterious transmission line effects in signal lines (1:18 – 1:20). Kao makes no reference to nor infers any such circuits. As a result, the applicant believes that claim 1 is not anticipated nor made obvious by Kao. Therefore, the applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable.

Since dependent claims 2-15 all depend from independent claim 1, and the applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable as is, the applicant believes that claims 2-15 are also allowable, as each incorporates the termination circuit element not disclosed in Kao.

The examiner has also cited as prior art references U.S. Patent Number 4,934,943 ("Klein"), U.S. Patent Number 6,053,747 ("Aggus"), U.S. Patent Number 5,764,497 ("Mizumo"), U.S. Patent Number 6,139,360 ("Hayashi"), U.S. Patent Number 6,305,970 ("Nagai"), U.S. Patent Number 6,247,977 ("Tanaka"), U.S. Patent Number 3,707,696 ("Carter"), U.S. Patent Number 6,336,816 ("Yatskov I"), U.S. Patent Number 6,309,223 ("Wolfe"), U.S. Patent Number 6,302,705 ("Yatskov II"), U.S. Patent Number 4,609,240 ("Pistor"), U.S. Patent Number 5,692,911 ("Webster"), U.S. Patent Number 6,162,099 ("Wu"), U.S. Patent Number 4,087,146 ("Hudson"), U.S. Patent Number 4,812,135 ("Smith"), and U.S. Patent Number 6,238,237 ("Nagahata"). All of these references appear to show various forms of connection assemblies or arrangements. However, none show or infer the use of a termination circuit as is disclosed in the present application.

As a result of the previous discussion, it is believed that claims 1-15 comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 

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